

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1908.

NORTH CAROLINA MOVING.

One of the arguments urged against the enactment of a law in Virginia prohibiting factories from employing children is that in North Carolina there is no such law and that Virginia factories would be at a disadvantage if they were prohibited from employing child labor.

The question for the General Assembly of Virginia to consider is whether or not it is right for Virginia to take this step. If so, it should be done, regardless of what other States are doing. We believe in material progress, and we are opposed to summary laws which interfere with the private rights of citizens; but there is something more than material consideration involved in this matter. It is to be considered from a moral point of view. The question is whether or not it is right and whether or not it is expedient.

For our part, we believe that it is both right and expedient. We believe it to be the poorest sort of economy to work the little children of this State at a time when they should be developing their minds and bodies at a time when Nature has them in hand. As we have so often remarked, the wealth of Virginia is not in her factories, but in her people, and that which tends to destroy or impair the manhood and womanhood of the people is against the State's material as well as moral interests.

But North Carolina is acting in this matter. Governor Aycock in his message earnestly recommended and urged that a bill be passed prohibiting the employment of children under twelve years of age and, after the year 1905, the employment of children under fourteen years of age absolutely and without such qualifications as are contained in the Cabell bill. It is now stated that a sub-committee of the Legislature has, after several conferences with representative cotton mill men, adopted a substitute for the child-labor bill pending and that it will be reported to the Senate favorably. It is true that this bill does not go as far as Governor Aycock's recommendation, simply providing that no factory shall employ a child under twelve years of age.

But that is a step in the right direction, and if this bill becomes a law, as doubtless it will, it will not be long before another step forward will be taken.

We hope that Virginia will go as far as North Carolina goes, and even a bit further. We hope that the Cabell bill will be passed, for it is entirely reasonable.

In conclusion, let us again impress the fact—that it is a fact—that this bill does not, as so many people seem to think, interfere with the prerogative of parents. It does not in terms prohibit parents from putting their children to work. It simply says that certain establishments in the State shall not employ children under twelve years of age and, shall not employ children over twelve and under fourteen except they can read and write or except it can be shown that they must work in order to earn a livelihood for themselves or those dependent upon them. It is a reasonable law, it is a necessary law, and it violates no principle of democratic government.

"SENATORIAL COURTESY."

The rejection by the Senate of the nomination by the State Board of Education of Mr. D. S. Pollock to be superintendent of public schools in the county of Pulaski is a matter in which the people of Virginia, and especially the friends of public education, are vitally interested. Mr. Pollock was the unanimous choice of the Board of Education and from all we can learn he is eminently qualified in every sense to fill the position. He is a man of education, even of scholarly attainments; he is a man of high moral character and strictest integrity, and he was a brave Confederate soldier. He had once before filled the position of school superintendent most acceptably. He had first-class endorsements from prominent men in the county, and, after considering the qualifications and the endorsements of both applicants for the place, the board unanimously decided on Mr. Pollock.

The Constitution provides that county superintendents shall be appointed by the State Board of Education, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and clearly the intention is that if the nomination is rejected it must be for cause. We should like to know, therefore, why the Senate refused to confirm the nomination of Mr. Pollock. It is reported that this action was taken through "senatorial courtesy" to the Senator from Pulaski, who preferred another man and who claims that he had not been properly treated by the Board of Education. Of this we have no knowledge, as the whole question was discussed in executive session of the Senate. But however that may be, manifestly the framers of the Constitution, who clothed the Board of Education with this power of appointment, did not contemplate that any nomination should be rejected simply because some member of the Senate, for personal reasons, saw fit to object. If so, there is no need, in this respect, of a Board of Education, for under this

rule each and every Senator would have the power of dictating appointments in his own district.

Therefore we should like to know why Mr. Pollock was not confirmed. Is there any charge against him? Is there any reason to believe that he would not fill the position acceptably?

We do not know Mr. Pollock and we have no interest whatever in any quarrel that may be between the Board of Education and the Senate, or any member of the Senate. But we have a profound interest in popular education and in the public school system, and incidents like this in the career of star chamber proceedings will surely not tend to promote the welfare of either. We ask again, therefore, in all sincerity and in all earnestness, why was Mr. Pollock rejected by practically the unanimous vote of the Senate? Members owe it to themselves and to their constituents and to the friends of education throughout the State and to the whole people to make a public explanation. It certainly cannot help the service for the Senate to reject such a man as Mr. Pollock without assigning any reason whatever therefor.

PUBLICITY.

We have a letter from Judge B. W. Saunders, of Rocky Mount, commenting upon the suggestion made in this paper and other papers that the law be so amended as to require boards of supervisors to publish their statements from time to time in the county papers. Judge Saunders says:

"The papers have been hammering away at this matter for some time, and I have wondered how long it would take them to find out that there is already a statute covering this ground."

"If you will look to section 847 of the Code, as amended by the acts of 1897, or page 626, you will find that the supervisors are required to make out annually, after their meeting at which the county levy is made, a statement showing the aggregate amount of the receipts and expenditures of the year next preceding."

A tabulated form is given of the items which they are required to publish. In addition, they are required to publish an itemized statement of incidental expenses not embraced in the items in the tabulated form."

"Each member of the Board of Supervisors not complying with the provisions of the section is made guilty of a misdemeanor, and is punishable by a fine of not less than \$10. I do not think any further legislation is needed to accomplish the results you are after, and if you will publish the section in full you will furnish information which seems to be badly needed by the way of the editorial writers in the State."

Judge Saunders falls into the error that some others have fallen into in writing upon this subject. The law does not require that these statements shall be published in the newspapers. It says that "a copy of such statement shall be posted at the front door of the courthouse and at each voting place in the county; OR, published in one or more newspapers of the county or adjoining county," &c. This leaves it discretionary with the board whether or not a statement shall be printed in the newspapers, and our contention is that there should be no such discretion, but that publication in the newspapers should be made compulsory. It is not enough to post these statements at a public place, for who is going to take the trouble to stand in front of the courthouse door and read them after them, the expenditures that are made? Even if men are disposed to take that trouble, they cannot, under these unfavorable conditions, study the statement as they should. Each tax-payer has the right to a copy of such statement in convenient form, that he may take it home and study it out at his leisure. The most convenient and cheapest way of doing this is to publish the statement in the county paper, and the law should make such publication binding upon the county boards.

WORKING THE ROADS.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Will you allow a comparative stranger to commend an editorial article in this morning's issue of your paper? I refer to the discussion of the subject of good roads and wish to say that your suggestions are the only ones out of a multitude, emanating usually from well-intending people, who are wholly inexperienced in the science of raising money for public improvement. The article and a single good road in the State of Virginia or any other State where good road building is comparatively new.

In raising money for a macadamized road, no one should be considered largely excepting those who live and own property in the immediate vicinity of that road.

If we want to build a good road from Richmond to Ashland, neither the people of Beaver Dam nor those of Elkton should have a right to veto the enterprise.

In Indiana and New Jersey a very successful law for this purpose, and much along the line of your suggestions, has been in operation for many years and has outlived all hostility, criticism and the paralysis produced by the fright caused so often by something new, and its best result is that it makes easy and not unpopular the labor of securing money with which to build a good road. In most other localities the man who starts in to spend \$25,000 or \$30,000 on a single road takes his life in his hands, while every one of his critics has but less money than that spent on a road ten miles long is practically thrown away.

If the Times-Dispatch can induce the Legislature of Virginia and North Carolina to even investigate the mortification systems already so successfully and popularly applied in sister States, it will perform a great service in the direction of furthering the development of the South, because if that law were to become operative in Virginia in 1903 it will spread throughout the South. Is it not consistent with her history for the Old Dominion to again point the way?

D. A. FAWCETT.

Ashland, Va., February 11th. A distinguished speaker in this city said the other night that nothing was now done as it was done twenty-five years ago. That is rather a broad statement, but it is in the main correct, and is entirely correct as indicating the great change that has come in our methods. Steam and electricity have wrought a revolution in the whole civilized world. Some seem to think that science is a term applied in a purely technical sense to chemistry, physics and the like, but science is a very practical thing. We are using it every day in the industrial world, in the business world, in various departments of government, in our educational system and everywhere. Science is simply the application of experience. We have the experience of all the generations that have preceded us, and we have the opportunity of profiting by the mistakes that they have made, as well as of improving upon their improvements. If we do not profit

by the experience of our forefathers, if we do not apply science to our methods, it is our own fault, and we must suffer the consequences of our indifference.

We did not start out to write an essay on science. We make these simple observations by way of saying that scientific principles must be applied to road-building, if we are to spend our money judiciously and effectually and get the best results. One thing is sure: The old system of "working the roads" in Virginia is worse than a failure. As we said in a previous article on this subject, if good roads are to be had, there must be a sufficient appropriation, and the money must be expended under intelligent direction. The roads must be built upon substantial foundations, and if they are so built, the money required from year to year to keep them in thorough repair will be comparatively small.

We heartily agree with our correspondent that the General Assembly should take this matter up and give it thorough investigation. There are experts who have made the subject of road-building a lifelong study, and they know how to build them and how not to build them. These experts can point out the mistakes that have been made, can point out the wrong methods employed, and can then show how it should be done. It is almost a sin for the intelligent people of Virginia to go on in the old way in the matter of road-building or in the management of prisons and asylums, and all that when there are improved methods which have been tested and found to be good. We must break away from the traditions where the traditions are out of date—the sacred traditions of sentiment, but the traditions as they relate to the practical things of life.

Our correspondent is also right in saying that there should be local taxation for local roads. That is the way to raise the money, the only fair way and the only effectual way, if enough money to make good roads is to be raised.

THE GUARDS' FLOGGING.

There is no doubt at all that the charges made by Rear-Admiral Cochrane are true. It has been the custom for years in the Grenadier Guards to punish subalterns for petty offenses by blows upon the naked skin. In the case of the Admiral's nephew, Leveson Gower, he was made a victim because he was said to have absented himself from his duties without his colonel's leave. In another case a lieutenant was caned because he wore his uniform when he went into a barber shop to be shaved. In yet other instances the subaltern's offense was that of being in a restaurant with women of disrepute.

The practice in question is for the colonel of the regiment to turn over these cases to the senior subaltern, who ompanies a "court-martial" of three. That court orders the flogging when it considers it necessary. The instrument used is a cane—used oftentimes on the man's bare back, and with such effect, on occasions, as to draw blood.

As we said in a former article on this subject, Cochrane's revelations have produced a profound sensation throughout the United Kingdom—more especially in army and navy circles.

How an officer and gentleman could consent to such degradation is inexplicable! But they did submit. It sufficed them to know that it was the custom of the Guards—the pets of the nation; the fondlings of society. But now the indignation of the British masses is such that some persons who have written letters to the newspapers have demanded that the Guards be disbanded at once.

It is said that in no other command in the British army would such a practice be permitted. On the other hand some of the Guards and some of their defenders resent Cochrane's disclosures and argue that it is one of the public's business. Here in the South the existence of such a practice among gentlemen is past comprehension. No colonel in the Southern army would have tolerated the thing; no subaltern would have submitted to it. It would have been utterly impossible! And so it would be to-day in most commands of the British army.

THE MINISTERIAL UNION.

Rev. Dr. R. P. Kerr makes a noble plea to the preachers of Richmond not to withdraw from the Ministerial Union, and we hope that the plea will not be in vain. Such an organization is a power for good, and it would be a distinct public loss for it to be disbanded. Now that the questions in dispute have been thoroughly threshed over, we believe that the dispute is at an end and that hereafter the proceedings will be characterized by brotherly love and harmony. But suppose disagreements should occasionally arise on "secular topics," they will be few and far between. Upon all essentials of Bible religion these reverend gentlemen are agreed, and such a body of men working together for the promotion of religion and for the uplift of humanity must, and will, accomplish great results. On the other hand, it would do the cause of religion harm for the Ministerial Union to disband for lack of agreement.

In discussing the statehood bill the other day, Dr. Dapow confused the dignified Senate by picturing Senator Quay as a gay Lothario, and warning Miss Democracy how she flirted with him. He said:

"The old lady of the Democracy, so frequently typified in picture and caricature, and who is still young, frisky and attractive, has been successful in her flirtations for a hundred years past—flirting with the Greenbacker and capturing him; flirting with the Silverite and capturing him; flirting with the Silverite and capturing him; but when she undertakes this most dangerous flirtation with that most dangerous and fascinating gentleman whom she is now following, the Senator from Pennsylvania, she is in more danger than she was ever before in her life. He has hypnotized her, and before she gets through I do not know what will happen."

If Miss Democracy is in fact flirting with Quay, she is in sad need of a chaperone.

There come from Washington well authenticated reports that the Hon. Mr. Shaw, of the State of Iowa, has become an eyesore to the President, and his con-

tinued service to the country as Secretary of the Treasury is something the thought of which almost gives Mr. Roosevelt the jim-jams. The Secretary does not show any purpose of being in a hurry about resigning. The same authority lets out the information that as soon as the Hon. Mr. Shaw gratifies the President by handing in his resignation of the office he now occupies, Mr. Roosevelt will name ex-Governor Murray Crane, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

It is no longer a secret that the new Cabinet officer, to be known as the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, will be George B. Cortelyou, now private secretary to the President. This was decided upon when it was first definitely known that the new secretaryship would be created by Congress. The appointment, it is said, will be a very popular one, especially with the McKinley influence.

Secretary Hay, so it is said, is moving heaven and earth, so to speak, to secure the ratification by Denmark of the treaty for the transfer of the Danish West India Islands to this country. Unless the treaty shall be ratified by the Danish Parliament by the first day of June, it will expire by limitation, and the whole scheme to acquire those islands for the United States will fall through.

A West Virginia legislator recently presented a bill changing ground-hog day from February 24 to January 24. He explained that he desired to make the winter shorter. Having neglected to observe Josh Billings' precept and write underneath his proposition the words "This is a joke," he is now suffering from the shafts of criticism, and for all that we know to the contrary may be defeated when he comes up for election again.

The West Virginia Legislature proposes to increase the salaries of the judges of that State and to prohibit them from riding on free passes. The Greenbrier Independent asks why the people should pay the judges ten cents a mile mileage for riding on free passes?

Here in Virginia all public officers are forbidden to accept free passes. It is a constitutional provision, and, so far as we are informed, the law is respected and obeyed.

When Mr. John S. Wise was last here we intimated as delicately as we could that he had brooded so over his estrangement from his own people that he had become mentally unbalanced on that subject. After reading his wild harangue in Boston, we have no doubt at that score. It may be the madness of hatred, for there is no passion so strong as love turned to hatred. But whatever the cause, Mr. Wise is beside himself, and is, therefore, not to be taken seriously. In that view his case is one to excite pity rather than anger.

To "Strictly Business." No, St. Valentine's Day is not a legal holiday. The banks will discount paper to-day as usual on Saturdays.

A battleship for every State in the Union, some people think, will just about give us a complete navy, provided, of course, a steel-clad cruiser shall be named for each of the larger cities.

Several more theories accounting for the alleged Rockefeller telegrams were hatched yesterday, and the incubator is still doing business.

Another gubernatorial candidate came out in Southwest Virginia the other day, but saw a shadow and went back to his hole.

The members of the retail coal dealers' combine in Chicago have been fined \$100 each. The last cold snap enabled them to stand it.

Newport News is hunting up another silk factory. It is going to get this one easier than she did the other. Nothing succeeds like success.

Strange, isn't it, that none of his fool friends have yet mentioned Minister Bowen for the presidency.

It is not related what part Dr. Parkhurst is taking in the effort in New York to bridge Hell Gate.

The Pope's latest poem tells us how to live to a good old age. The Pope ought to know.

The digging of the Isthmian canal will come along in good time to keep prosperity in good and healthful exercise.

Kindergarten festivals should not look a gift handkerchief in the mark-down price hem.

Personal and General.

It is told as a true story that John Chapman at Galena, Kan., feeding down a twenty-foot tramway at Blind Tiger mine and dislocated his shoulder. If he went home and stumbled down the cellar steps and in falling his shoulder was thrown back into place. He took a drink and returned to work.

The congregation of the Elkins Methodist Church at Moundsville, W. Va., was astonished a few days ago to hear a confession by the former pastor to the effect that he had fallen from grace and had been drinking heavily, and not only that, but had indulged in gambling with the result that he was \$5,000 ahead of the games. The preacher said that he was heartily sorry for what he had done, and would give his winning back to those who had lost to him in the games played. The congregation received the confessions as an earnest and sincere contrition and held out the right hand of fellowship to him.

Miss Elizabeth C. Adams, granddaughter of the second President of the United States, was ninety-five years old on Monday, the event being quietly celebrated at her home in Quincy, Mass.

E. Lusk, a wealthy Chinese merchant of Indianapolis, has been made head of the Chinese Masons in this country.

Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan will assume the leadership of evangelistic work at the St. Louis World's Fair.

The International Typographical Union will erect a monument in Colorado Springs to Amos J. Cummings, the former New York Congressman.

Francis B. Loomis, the new Assistant Secretary of State, has held the office of consul-general and held two ministries, record of service without precedent in the State Department.

An Hour With Virginia Editors

The Fredericksburg Free Lance expresses its sentiments right out in this fashion: "If the University of Virginia is anything it is a State school, owned by the people, supported by the people, and intended for the people. That being the case, surely the people should decide who shall be the president of that institution. It was the intention of its founder that it should be the property of the people, and for this reason provision was made for the people to govern the institution through a board of visitors, and not through a self-seeking committee, of which the faculty should be part."

The Charlottesville Progress has been watching the President's antics in regard to the negro, and reaches this conclusion:

"The time is ripe for bringing the race problem to a solution, and President Roosevelt has made himself the instrument of precipitating the issue. It seems that the fact of not entire harmony in his own household."

The Lynchburg Advance is disposed to be at peace with all the world, including Germany. It says:

"All will turn out well, provided the jingoes cease their mischievous efforts to create hostility in this country towards Germany by attributing sinister motives to the German Emperor and by fostering the opinion that the allies are engaged in a concerted effort to break down the Monroe doctrine and humiliate the United States."

The Petersburg Index-Appeal rises to remark:

"The Grand Army of the Republic cannot expect to live and flourish on a diet of Confederate soldiers' bones. Far better for the Grand Army to live upon food fitted to the time."

The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says: "It is a duty the more intelligent negroes owe to the less fortunate of their race to let the latter know that there is not the slightest chance that the bill introduced by Senator Hanna to pension ex-slaves will ever become a law. In the debate in the House on Tuesday, Representative Cannon, Republican, who will be the Speaker of the next House, admitted on the floor that there was no chance for the bill to pass. Indeed, Senator Hanna, introduced it, 'by request,' and has given no evidence of any intention to attempt to secure its passage."

The Newport News Press furnishes this gratifying information:

"Like time and tide, the Jamestown Exposition movement waits for no man. With the consciousness of rectitude it is going ahead."

North Carolina Sentiment.

The Asheville Citizen gloomily remarks:

"Senator Vann, of Hertford, proposes a dog law. His efforts in that direction are wasted, even though he proposes to put the dog tax in the school fund. The average Heel Solon has not yet reached the progressive point where he'd dare tax the mangy cur. Perhaps some good day we'll reach it, but at present the dog is easily the master of the situation."

The Raleigh News-Observer reaches a conclusion in this way:

"Mr. Bryan does not want to eat with Mr. Cleveland. In 1896 and 1900 Mr. Cleveland was introduced at the White House in 1894 it looks like where Judge Parker sits will be the head of the table. Democracy will unite, even if Mr. Bryan and Mr. Cleveland do not sit at meals together."

The Enfield Ledger loudly preaches the "hog and hominy" doctrine. It says:

"Then first and foremost let each one decide to make enough corn and meat for his own use. It requires no argument to show that a farmer with a full corn crib and smokehouse is master of the situation. If he has but little money, but little is needed. Enough to buy a pig and a few necessities he cannot produce is sufficient."

The Goldsboro Headlight is philosophic. It remarks:

"At least the Legislature deserves some credit for refusing to pass all the bills that are introduced. If all the bills become laws the life of the average citizen would be made miserable as a result of too much legislation."

The Greenville Reflector takes this view of the Hanna (by request) bill:

"Of course, the bill to pension ex-slaves is all nonsense and can never pass, but the South would not be called upon to make a face if it did pass. We would have to pay only a part of it, and would get nearly all of it. A nigger just can't help handing over his money to white people."

The Charlotte Observer, referring to the purpose of Professor Dabney to prepare a history of the reconstruction period, says:

"The South neither needs nor desires that anything excepting the exact truth be told as to the causes leading to the Civil War, the war itself or the subsequent events down to the time of the withdrawal of Federal troops from the South. In the compass of his work, which will cover the period from the time of the cessation of hostilities to the event last mentioned, Professor Dabney will have to write the exact truth, and that he has undertaken to do so is cause of universal congratulation."

Remarks About Richmond.

Louisville Post:

It is said the city of Richmond, Va., does not find cemeteries profitable investment for city funds. The profit in a city cemetery depends largely on the individuals selected for interment.

Norfolk Ledger:

The Orange (Va.) Observer suggests that the James river water at Richmond is a pretty muddy article in which to attempt the cleansing of Amherst's dirty clothes—which, we would remark, is a forceful attack on the city water of our State capital, considering the degree to which that Amherst linen has been soiled.

Newport News Press:

A few more big fires in Richmond will give the city an appearance calculated to awaken in the minds of the old residents memories of the evacuation period.

Danville Bee:

This mild weather should be the means of thawing out a few more candidates for Senator or Governor over in Richmond.

Houston Record-Advertiser:

A patient in a Richmond hospital has had his pig skin grafted on him. A surgical operation is not necessary to put bristles on some folks.

In Style and Finish.

While Richmond has but one morning paper, it is a Richmond paper, and its Sunday edition is a New York in style and cleaner in finish—Farmville Herald.

Trend of Thought In Dixie Land

Birmingham News: If the Democratic party will stand by the teachings of Jefferson, Madison and Monroe it need not go into the next fight discouraged, for whether it wins this time or not it will have the way for a great victory over extravagance, unaccountable taxation and centralization of power.

New Orleans Plaindealer: It is a pity that so picturesque a figure as Captain Hobson should be reduced altogether from association with the Navy, to whose signals he added one of its most brilliant pages. As a private citizen, Captain Hobson will, of course, be less in the public eye, but, nevertheless, the American people will always have a not spot for the hero of the bold attempt to bottle up Corveta's fleet in Santiago harbor.

Atlanta Journal:

Wood pulp machinery has reached such a stage of perfection that paper constructed of wood pulp is becoming necessary for the printing of the world's news. The woods used for such purposes in the north are getting very scarce, and such plants must inevitably find their supply of woods in the South, where our myrtle swamps are full of the raw material. Why not begin now?

Florida Times-Union: The people of Alabama tolerate no opposition to a public servant who is performing exceptionally good service, on the ground that it detracts from his influence abroad and distracts his attention from public duties. This is common sense and looks like good politics if the people prefer themselves to the interests of ambitious citizens.

Houston Post: Serious discussion of the Hanna proposal to pension former slaves is like explaining a cool joke to a witless peasant. The avidity with which it has been approved in certain Southern quarters is inspired in part by a proper sympathy with faithful and infirm negroes, who are past the age of active labor and in part by a selfish desire to see the pension money distributed to the full of the raw material. Why not begin now?

Louisville Courier-Journal: In the affair of Mrs. Roosevelt and those Dallas kindergarten ladies the honors are all with Mrs. Roosevelt.

An Open Letter.

To the Virginia State Legislature in Session:

I wish to call your attention to the laws of Virginia, page 35, article 35, pedler's license, as amended by act approved March 3, 1900, in which a license tax is imposed on every peddler of \$250, when he travels on foot, and when he travels otherwise than on foot, the tax paid shall be \$50. Then an exception is made in favor of the farmer who peddles the product of his farm or the manufacturer peddling the product of his factory in these words: "But nothing under this or the preceding section shall be construed to require of any farmer or manufacturer a peddler's license for selling his own produce or the product of his own factory, or for the privilege of selling or peddling farm produce, wood or coal."

I wish to state that I am a manufacturer of tobacco, independent of the tobacco combine or trust, and from actual experience in four years, I know my only hope to continue this business is to peddle it to the consumer. Now I learn that you are at the present time amending his law to disqualify the manufacturer from peddling, except he pay the \$50 license tax. I wish to call your attention to the fact that in disqualifying him you also disqualify the farmer, as the farmer must qualify as a manufacturer conformably with the United States Internal revenue law if he sweeters, flavors or shakes his leaf. Consequently when he becomes a manufacturer the law you propose to enact would disqualify him and crush the last hope of the manufacturer. If this petition law, for the sake of humanity and the memory of your illustrious dead, repeal it and respect it to-day. All we want is a fighting chance, a common chance, and no special privilege as you will give this trust in the amendment proposed.

WILLIAM A. FRETWELL, Manchester, Va., February 13th.

Author of "Asleep."

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Cochran, Va., Feb. 12, 1908.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Can you or any one of your readers give me the authorship of the following beautiful poem? It is called "Asleep."

J. R. STURGIS, Cochran, Va., Feb. 10.

An hour before, she spoke of things That memory to the dying brings, And kissed me, and I knew not what it meant. Then, after some sweet parting words, She seemed among her flowers and birds, Until she fell asleep.

'Twas summer then, 'tis autumn now; The crimson leaves fall off the bough, And strew the gravel sweep. I wander down the garden walk, And muse on all the happy talk. We had beneath the limes; And, resting on the garden seat, I thought of her, and at my feet, I think of other times—

Of golden eyes, when she and I Sat watching here the flushing sky, The sunset and the sea; Or heard the children in the lanes, Following home the harvest wains, And shouting in their glee.

But when the daylight dies away And ships grow dusky in the bay, These recollections cease. And, in the stillness of the night, Bright thoughts that end in dreams as bright, Communicate their peace.

I wake and see the morning star, And hear the breakers on the bar, The voices on the shore; And then, with tears, I long to be Across a dim, unbounded sea, With her forevermore.

Up to Date Salem.

The good old town of Salem has adopted an anti-spitting ordinance, and hereafter unlawful spitting will cost the spitter from \$1 to \$5 per spit—Times-Dispatch.

Yes, brother, the "good old town" has adopted the anti-spitting ordinance. Salem is only an old town in point of years, but she is celebrating her one hundredth anniversary June last she took on new life. Doesn't that ordinance suggest something new in her life?